

REMARKS

I. Status of the Claims

Claims 9 and 13 are currently pending in this application. Claims 1-5, 10 and 14-20 have been canceled. Claims 6-8 have been withdrawn from consideration as non-elected claims. Claims 9 and 13 are currently amended. Support for this Amendment can be found, for example, at Figure 2 of the Specification. No new matter has been introduced by this Amendment.

II. Combination Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Applicant appreciates and acknowledges withdrawal of the rejection of claims 9, 10, 13, and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,714,065 to *Huder* in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,861,430 to *Markonius*. In the January 26, 2005 Office Action claims 9, 10, 13, and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,205,932 to *Solomon* in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,153,228 to *Shibuya*. Applicant respectfully disagrees with and traverses this rejection for at least the following reasons.

To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness the Examiner must show, *inter alia*, that all of the claimed elements are taught or suggested by the reference combination. M.P.E.P. § 2143. The rejection over *Solomon* in view of *Shibuya* fails to satisfy at least this requirement.

The references relied upon, *Solomon* in view of *Shibuya*, do not render obvious claims 9 and 13, which as amended recite “ceramic particles” as a base member and additionally “a magnet.” Support for these amendments can be found, for example,

respectively in previously presented claims 10 and 14, which are now canceled, and in Fig. 2 of the specification.

The Examiner has not shown that *Solomon* in view of *Shibuya* teaches or suggests an antibacterial member comprised of propolis ceramics. The hardness and components of a base member may be controllably adjusted by choosing the kinds of ore, which forms the ceramic particles used as a base member, and by choosing a baking temperature at which the ore is baked. No teaching or suggestion of preparing ceramics is provided by *Solomon* in view of *Shibuya*. An antibacterial member can be manufactured for use in a given applied environment. For example, in a place where flow speed of the water is high, adjustably increasing the hardness of a base member could be performed. It is also possible to manufacture an antibacterial member for a given use of the water, such as by permitting a base member destined to be used as containers for drinking water to contain components desirable for a living body. Propolis ceramics can be employed, for example, to sterilize tap water when it lost chloride component therein and may allow for water having a medical effect on the living body.

Further, the Examiner has not shown that *Solomon* in view of *Shibuya* teaches or suggests a water purifier unit comprising a magnet as recited in claims 9 and 13. In accordance with these claims, a magnet is disposed at a longitudinally intermediate portion of the center pipe to have a central magnetic force of a predetermined intensity. This can allow for water to be purified and activated and for the molecular structure of water to be further arranged. No teaching or suggestion of such a magnet is provided by *Solomon* in view of *Shibuya*.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

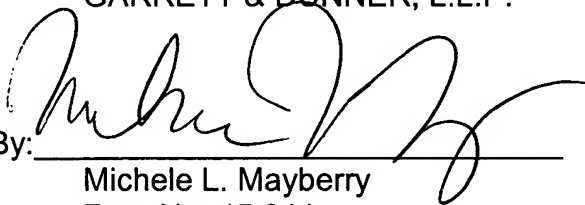
III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing Amendment and Remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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